

Sullivan County Court improving access for handicapped

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Renovations to the Sullivan County Superior Courthouse will make it easier for the handicapped to access the building with a completion date set for early summer.

"We welcome the opportunity to work with the state to make the courthouse more accessible to the handicapped," interim county administrator Greg Chanis said.

Most noticeable is the installation of new counters and service windows for the clerical department which now has a portion of the counter at the desired height for a wheelchair.

Prior to the renovation, a person in a wheelchair who needed access to the clerk's officer would need to navigate through a doorway only to be greeted by a counter well above the head of anyone in a wheelchair.

"It's an old building not built with the handicapped in mind," court clerk James Peale said. "The new windows will also dou-

ble as a security feature for the office staff."

Chanis said the state is paying for the estimated \$19,000 in improvements with the work being done by county employees.

"Anyone would agree the quality is top notch," Chanis said.

The work to the clerk's office is scheduled to be completed by the end of the week with the remainder of improvements scheduled for completion by the end of June, according to Chanis.

Other improvements to the

building include a new ramp for the existing witness stands in the probate court on the third floor and the superior court on the first floor; renovations to the restrooms throughout the building; installation of handrails on the first floor and lowering a portion of the transaction counter for the probate clerk's office.

"Court resumes on Monday and we will be open for business," Peale said.

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